

Cath Petroskey

From: Bob Zabik <bob.zabik@att.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:21 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: HB 5184

Hi Mary,

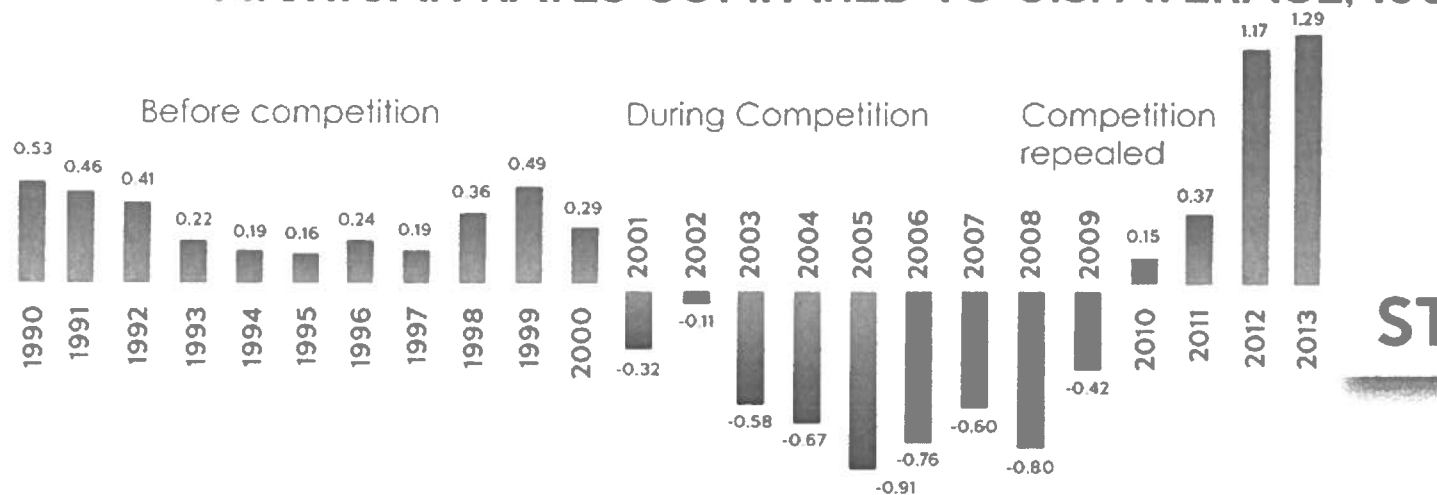
I am writing to express my support for the committee members to let them know this bill must be passed. The utility companies have we the people of Michigan in a stranglehold with the artificially high rates for electricity. The facts speak for themselves, but many reports being circulated do not reflect the facts. See the real impact of this cap (an extract from Energy Choice Now coalition):

“Today Michigan has the highest rates in the Midwest. Our rates are well above the national average and getting higher every year. Families as well as factories are struggling in Michigan, while in nearby states like Ohio and Illinois, where competition is flourishing, rates have moderated or even fallen.

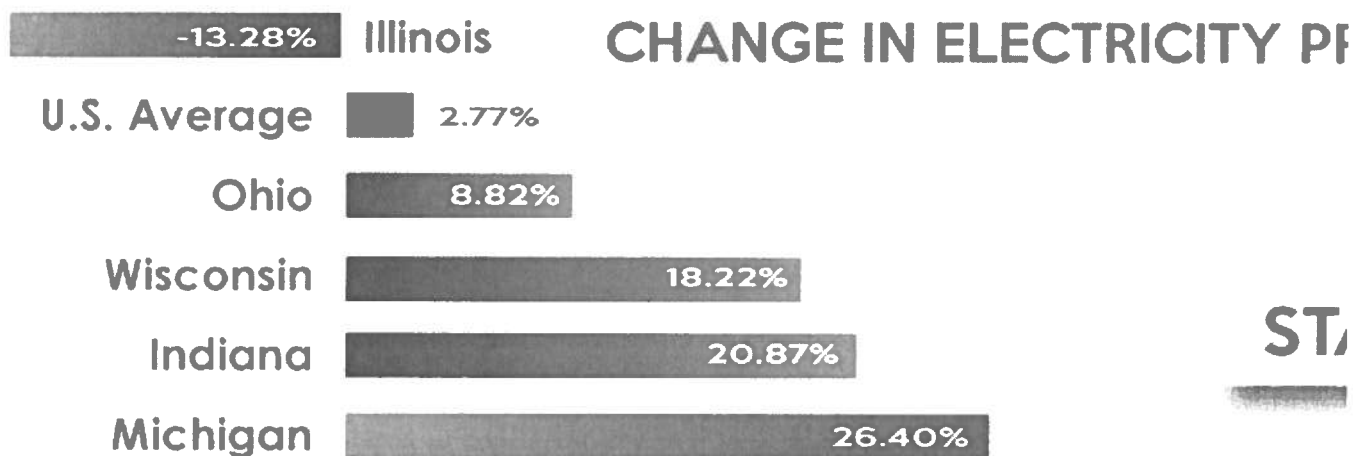
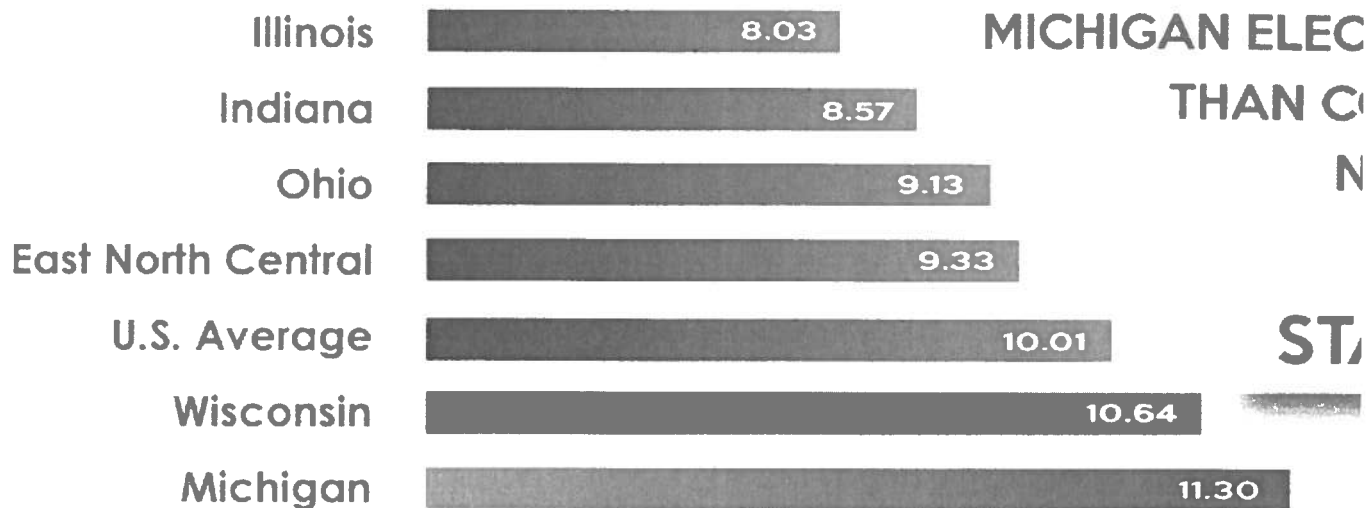
It doesn't have to be this way. Michigan's electric rates were below the national average from 2000 to 2008, when we encouraged the free market and competition among electric companies. But in 2008, Michigan returned control of the state's electric system to two monopoly utilities – and they have raised rates relentlessly. **See the 3 graphs below.**

No more monopolies. It is time for lawmakers to embrace policies that replace high-priced monopolies with free markets for electricity.”

MICHIGAN RATES COMPARED TO U.S. AVERAGE, 199



Data from U.S. Energy Information Agency



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Change in All Sector price/kWh

It is long overdue to stop choking Michiganders with electricity rates that are way out of line. They are stifling job growth and sending Michigan companies away from Michigan. Put this legislation on the desk of the Governor to sign NOW! Michigan needs this passed as fast as you possibly can!

Thank you,
Bob

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